

AIR

SECRET

WSSW-698

9 May 1949

Chief, Foreign Branch W

TILESTONE Expedition

REFERENCES: A) WSSA-896
B) WSSA-923

1. The detailed explanation of your financial relations with the TIEBARS and TILESTONIANS contained in reference (A) is extremely helpful, and does correct some misconceptions we had had concerning the expenditures made in connection with the current expedition. This misunderstanding on our part arose principally because it was not clear to us in every instance that the funds were being supplied directly to TILESTONE without the TIEBARS' knowledge. We agree that the total investment made by us is small in comparison with the potential results of the operation, and, in the light of your detailed breakdown of the probable cost, it does certainly seem that we are at least getting our money's worth.

2. It is reassuring to learn that TILESTONE's successor, TIRRALIRRA, has made such a favorable impression and gives evidence of being able to continue satisfactorily in TILESTONE's role. An officer at Headquarters who is personally well acquainted with TIRRALIRRA states that the biographical data supplied by the latter is substantially correct, and that your initial appraisal of his character is accurate. He adds that TIRRALIRRA's two faults are a strong ambition, combined with a desire to magnify his own importance which might lead to indiscretions, and chronic impatience, which conceivably might prompt him to hasty, ill-considered actions. For these reasons, he needs firm, continual control.

3. The news of the successful landing of the second Baltic expedition is most gratifying. (For your information, we refer to the first expedition as TILESTONE Able and will now designate the second group as TILESTONE Baker.) We are anxiously awaiting the first report from the travelers, and the operational details promised by you.

SECRET